

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 IO-14 /112 R

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APPROVED BY USOAS:JWFORD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001958

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR DISPUTE: COMMITTEE OF SEVEN
MEETS

REF: SATE 247775

THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, CHAIRED BY SEVILLA SACASA, MET
JANUARY 4 TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE CURRENT
IMPASSE. THE FOLLOWING WERE THE PRINCIPAL RESULTS OF THE
MEETING:

A. SEVILLA SACASA REPORTED THAT HONDURAN FOREIGN
MINISTER BATRES HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO REPORT TO THE
COMMITTEE THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ENDED
DECEMBER 15 IN MEXICO. BATRES IS EXPECTED TO MAKE HIS
REPORT HERE JANUARY 10.

B. QUIJANO (ARGENTINA) REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED
A REPLY TO HIS CABLE TO GOMEZ ROBLEDO, THE COORDINATOR IN
MEXICO, (PARA 6 REFTEL). GOMEZ ROBLEDO STATED THAT HIS
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MANDATE WAS A NARROW ONE AND HE DID NOT FEEL HE COULD

TAKE ANY INITIATIVE TO GET EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS TO EXTEND THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE SET FORTH IN THE ACT OF WASHINGTON.

C. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR SHOULD BE URGED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE, BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WOULD TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL AFTER IT HAD HEARD BATRES' PRESENTATION. QUIJANO SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH EL SALVADOR'S GALINDO POHL AFTER HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE DECEMBER 19 AND GALINDO FELT THAT THE DEADLINE MIGHT BE EXTENDED SIX MONTHS (FROM THE DEC. 15 DEADLINE FOR TERMINATING NEGOTIATIONS), BUT THAT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL APRIL, WITH INFORMAL TALKS UP TO THAT TIME.

D. THE CHAIRMAN WAS AUTHORIZED TO ASK GALINDO POHL IF THERE WERE ANY OBJECTION TO THE RELEASE OF DOCUMENTATION WHICH GALINDO POHL PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN AFTER HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON DECEMBER 19. IF EL SALVADOR SHOULD OBJECT TO TURNING THE MATERIAL OVER TO HONDURAS RIGHT AWAY, SEVILLA SACASA WAS TO URGE BOTH HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR TO ALLOW RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS FOLLOWING BATRES' PRESENTATION NEXT WEEK. (COPIES OF THE SALVADORAN REPORT ARE BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSIES SAN SALVADOR AND TEGUCIGALPA.)

E. SEVILLA SACASA MENTIONED A PROPOSED MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS LATER THIS MONTH AND HIS HOPE THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO ADVERSARIES COULD BE NARROWED AT THAT TIME.

F. THE U.S. DELEGATE REITERATED OUR POSITION THAT IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO KEEP TALKS GOING, TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. KISSINGER

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